

Currents

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Megwa Ezhiweback



Ziisabaakdoke-Giizis (Sugar Moon)
March 2011 vol.8 Issue 3



ALSO IN THIS PUBLICATION



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OGEMA ROMANELLI



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ASSISTANCE



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*Office of Public
Affairs*
Contact Information
1-888-723-8288
1-231-398-6840

Primary Election Results

In the Primary Election for Tribal Council 9 County, the following citizens will advance to the General Election:

Jeff Battice (62)
Michael J. Ceplina (64)
Gary Paul DiPiazza (53)
Rita Annette Gale (66)
Sandy Mezeske (126)
Karen Love (54)
Joseph Riley Sr. (52)
Patricia "Pat" Ruiter (70)
Bob J. Whiteloon (66)



The following individuals did not make the General election:

Jamie Friedel (50)
Edward Tyler (41)
Peggy J. Vriesman (45)



Preliminary Results

In Office of Tribal Council, At Large, Kimberly Alexander (166), Loretta Beccaria (163) and Cindy Champagne (131) advanced to the General Election. Shannon Paul Crampton received 40 votes and was eliminated from the race.

In the Special Election for the Election Board, Carol Gibner won that seat over Corey A. Wells 272 to 171.



Post Office change delays Currents!

Editor Note....the U.S. Post Office now sends the tribal newspaper all the way to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for sorting before mailing it out. Most recently the paper had been sorted and mailed through Cadillac, MI. This change has added substantially to the delivery time so if your newspaper is later than usual, that's why! Our Public Affairs Office is reviewing options and encourages everyone to read the paper on the internet at www.lrboi.com. It is always posted around the 15th



**Spring
Membership Meeting**

Saturday April 9, 2011!

**Ogema meet and Greet
Friday April 8, 2011!**

Aanii: As I write, we are in the middle of winter and about two feet deep in snow. I hope everyone is enjoying winter more than I am.

As I understand, last month's Currents was received later than usual by many people including myself. The US Post Office has made sorting changes that are delaying the delivery of the Currents more than usual. Information contained in the paper will be delayed even more from the time it takes to submit the information to the time it takes to get it to the printer and then sorted and mailed. We have looked at sending it first class which could help cut the time, but the last time we checked, the cost was about \$15,000 per year and I believe the costs have gone up since then. Some people have agreed to not having the paper sent to them and read it on the LRBOI website which is appreciated but not all can do that. We will be working on this and look for your suggestions.

We have recently filled two director positions; both are preference persons. First, Michael Martin, a preference person filled the Director of Public Safety position and then Bob Davis, a tribal person, was recently hired for the Clinic Director. Best wishes to both of you and good luck.

On the Muskegon Project, we are in contact with the newly elected representatives in Lansing and working to push our efforts for a second site casino and look forward to working aggressively with the new Governor. Economic Development Director, Robert Memberto will be putting together an update for the citizens of LRBOI over the next couple of months.

As I write, the new Gun Lake Casino is about to open on February 11th; I and several Councilors are planning on attending the Grand Opening. We do wish them well and realize their long, hard fight to open their doors. We also realize that they will be competition for our southern counties, but that is to be expected. We have had other casinos open in our market area in the past few years and plan accordingly.

Until next month... think spring!

REMEMBER- "A computer once beat me at chess but it was no match for me at



New Public Safety Director at LRBOI



For the first time in many years, there's a new face at the helm of the LRBOI Public Safety Department! In January of this year, Mike Martin took over the reins of law enforcement for the tribe and brings 27+ years of law enforcement and administrative expertise to one of the largest and most visible of the Executive Branch departments.

Martin, originally from the Charlevoix area of Michigan has served in law enforcement as an uniformed police officer, an undercover narcotics investigator, Police Chief and administrator and has taught at the college level. He is a graduate of Ferris (when it was a college), North Central Michigan in Petoskey, the 193rd class of the FBI Academy and

he has a Masters Degree from Michigan State University. Martin has also graduated from the Northwestern School of Police Staff Command. He also has had quite a bit of other technical police training.

Director Martin married his high school sweetheart 32 two years ago. They have three children. His wife is an occupational therapist. Martin is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa tribe.

While Martin has extensive experience in law enforcement, this is the first time to practice his profession in a tribal department. He says this is, "...both exciting and challenging." He said that, "There is a whole different perspective to law enforcement" in tribal country. "The rules are different," he said, "...depending upon who is involved (tribal and non-tribal). In addition there are different cooperative arrangements with other agencies involved."

"Tribal government is a wholly different form of government than any that I've ever had to work with in the past," Martin added. The rules pertaining to the different types of crime remain the same he stated, "...as an example, a theft is a theft is a theft." "It's just a matter of how you handle that (crime)," he added. The Director explained that the laws are similar between tribal law and outside law, "but they are not the same." He told the *Currents* that he is looking forward to learning the differences and nuances.

Regarding the future of the department, Director Martin says that he is, ".... looking, listening, and asking to gauge where the department is at with regard to providing services for our members."

New Tribal Health Director



Bob Davis has been brought it as the new Tribal Health Clinic Director, filling a spot that had been vacant for some time.

Bob is a Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal citizen that has been employed by the Tribe as the Director of Operations for 3

years and as the Budget Coordinator for the past 4 years. Bob is a native of Michigan and received an Associate degree in Respiratory Care and several years later, a Bachelors' degree in Allied Health Teacher Education from Ferris State before moving to Colorado. He spent close to 20 years in the Denver area before returning to Michigan to work for the Tribe. While living in Colorado, Bob spent many years in night school, worked full time, started a family and earned a Masters' degree in Business Administration.

Bob brings close to 30 years of experience in Health Care before working with the Tribe. He has worked in almost every aspect of Health Care including: Adult and Neonatal ICU, Respiratory Care Department Supervision and as a Director, Home Care, Medical manufacturing, Respiratory Therapy Education at the Community College level and most recently, Long Term Acute Care in a Ventilator Dependent Unit. He is eager to begin meeting the challenges of improving access and expanding the delivery of Health Care services to Tribal citizens and their families and as he states; "honored to be serving our people at this critical time".

Recorder's Report to Membership- Feb 2011



Pending Legislation: During the month of February, two laws will have concluded the Public Comment period under the Tribal Council's processes. The amendments to the Indian Preference Ordinance and

the Office of the Prosecutor Ordinance conclude the comment period, and may appear for final adoption by Tribal Council prior to the end of February. A final work session will be scheduled to review any comments received, to prepare the final law to be enacted. A new ordinance was posted, the Rehabilitation for Licensure Ordinance, which spells out the process that a Tribal Member can utilize to obtain a special designation in order to qualify for license eligibility, in order to work at the Little River Casino Resort. Under the Gaming Compact with the State of Michigan, the Band was empowered to grant forgiveness with respect to some disqualifying events. With the creation of this new law, the Little River Band Gaming Commission will have standards defined by law to allow exemptions from certain disqualifying convictions. Please be advised that if a person has been convicted of a felony involving a gaming related, or certain theft related offenses, there is no mechanism for the Tribe to ignore those crimes, or license those individuals. The Tribal Council did identify other crimes that could be granted a rehabilitation status, if specific conditions have been met. You are encouraged to review this new Ordinance at the Little River Band Website, under the Tribal Council page, Notice of Proposed Ordinances- or type the following location into your browser:

<https://www.lrboi-nsn.gov/council/public-comment-ordinances.html>

LRBOI Website & Tribal Council Weekly Calendar: The LRBOI website has many links to information. One specific area is the Tribal Council page that carries the resolutions, open session minutes, Departmental and Commission reports, and other information. You can access this page by typing the following location into your browser: <https://www.lrboi-nsn.gov/council/>

As you navigate the Tribal Council's page, you will see that the underlined titles will take you to additional information. For example, every monthly report filed by Executive Operations is listed under Committee and Commission Reports, along with every Commission report filed, by year. That location will give you access to every report that is accepted by Tribal Council during its third meeting of each month. Also listed on the Tribal Council page is the Tribal Council activities calendar. You can type the following location into your browser access the weekly

calendar: <https://www.lrboi-nsn.gov/council/docs/Tribal%20Council%20Calendar.pdf>

So there are different ways to navigate, either directly to a specific page, or by accessing the general Tribal Council page, and then going to links within that page. If you ever require assistance to find any information located at the Tribal Council's website, but are having difficulty locating it, feel free to contact the Tribal Council staff, by calling 1(800)723-8288, during normal business hours. Any member of the Tribal Council can also assist you in accessing the information on the Tribe's website.

Tribal Council Conducts Legislative Priority Review: The Tribal Council met in a work session to discuss the need for additional legislation, and reviewed its completed priorities that were identified in August of 2010. In August of 2010, there were 11 laws that were identified by Tribal Council to either be amended, or created. Six of those 11 have been finalized and adopted, with four more either in final form or set to be posted for public comment. Having nearly finished all 11 identified priorities, the Council determined that the following items would now be the focus of First Quarter Legislative Priority:

1) Adoption of Governmental Structure Ordinance – this new Law will define how departments are created, funded, and placed on the organizational structure of the Tribe. It focuses on controlled growth and departmental evolution that reflects the needs of the Membership. This Ordinance is in the very initial stages, and will require substantial time, to craft a cornerstone law that will enable and empower management within the operation. The focus and goal for this law may change as the discussion continues.

2) Legal Reform Act – this Law is proposed to be amended, to include specific assignment regarding litigation oversight. During the past few years, there have been a number of claims, including actions filed against the Tribe in Federal and Tribal Court. The concept behind amending this law, or changing it outright, is to ensure that all parties, including the Ogema and Tribal Council, are routinely informed about litigation matters, as well as attorney assignments to oversee such issues. The proposed amendments are in concept form only, at this point, and will include tribal entities such as the Commissions or Boards of the Tribe.

3) Contracting and Preference in Contracting Ordinance – this law is a new law, which will define negotiation processes carried out on behalf of LRBOI. The Ogema is assigned the Constitutional responsibility for negotiating on behalf of the Tribe, and Tribal Council has the Constitutional responsibility to authorize or ratify agreements that are negotiated. The initial goal of this legislation is to clarify when the Tribal Council must be informed about negotiations, and the form in which sovereign immunity waivers must be included in any con-

tracts negotiated. The new law is also expected to define how Indian Preference is granted to Tribal entities, and how an entity qualifies for Preference status in the bidding process.

There were several other issues discussed by the Council, which may be incorporated during the remainder of this legislative calendar year: sub-committee structure; creating a TERO law/office; Building & Zoning Ordinance; Criminal Code amendments; codification of the Revenue Allocation Plan, Domestic Relations Act; Worker's Compensation Ordinance; Enterprise Boards Act, and others. Members may make suggestions for other legislation to any member of the Tribal Council, via email or direct contact. By checking the weekly calendar, you will see work sessions appearing in purple, which designate those work sessions that are for the purpose of new laws or amending existing ordinances.

Consideration of Salary for Elected Positions
The General Election will conclude in April. Prior to the General Election, the Tribal Council will consider legislative action to set the Salary for the Tribal Ogema and Members of the Tribal Council, to take effect after the General Election is completed. The Constitution of the Tribe places the burden on the Tribal Council to set the compensation for the Ogema, which cannot be diminished during the term of office. The Tribal Council has also, typically, prior to the seating of new persons, set the compensation for Council as well. One reason that the compensation is enacted before the General Election is to ensure that the compensation is fairly based on the position, and not the person elected into the position. Any changes to compensation levels will be clearly identified on the Agenda of the Tribal Council, and will be adopted during the Open Session.

Financing Activities of the Tribe
The Tribal Council (in December) had authorized the pursuit of re-financing the debt for the Little River Casino and Resort. The structure of the current debt carries with it a 'balloon' payment which is due in early March. The Tribal Council is also discussing proposals for paying for the costs associated with building the new Government Center. The Tribal Council met with members of the Government Center Task Force and the Tribe's Chief Financial Officer, Steve Wheeler, to discuss payment options. At this point, there has not been a final determination regarding how the Government Center will be paid for, but three options on the table include: 1) paying the cost outright from tribal cash reserves; 2) paying for the cost with new debt financing; or 3) funding a portion of the costs through grant activities, and the remainder of the costs through tribal cash reserves. The Ogema had originally hired a contracted consultant to explore option number

3, and findings and recommendations were submitted by executive memo. The total financing activities under review during the first quarter are approximately \$30 million dollars. The Tribe is currently standing at approximately \$58 million dollars in cash on deposit.

Upcoming Council Holiday & Recess

The Tribal Council will be observing the holiday, "Treaty Recognition Day", on March 28, and the Tribal Council offices will be closed that day. Upcoming in April, the Tribal Council will observe its first Legislative Recess the week of April 25-April 29th, there will not be a Council meeting on April 27. The Tribal Council's administrative staff will be in the office during the Legislative Recess, in the event you need to contact the Council Office.

The meeting attendance report is submitted by a separate chart as an addition to this Recorder's Report. If you have any questions, please contact any member of Tribal Council.

Respectfully submitted,
Janine M. Sam
Recorder

Tribal Council publishes the concepts behind proposed changes to the Constitution:

Earlier, the Recorder had reported that the proposed changes to the Constitution as worked on by the Tribal Council during the last quarter are now ready for review. The Tribal Council reviewed its presentation, and discussed how best to put this into the hands of Membership. It was determined that the first place to start is here, in the Currents. The following is a synopsis of the potential changes. The Recorder wants to clear with the Membership, what you are about to read is a **summary** of changes, the actual language is still to be sent in to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for their review, so actual potential amendment language that may appear on any ballot is not published in this article. In addition, the Tribal Council would like to encourage Members to notify the Council if you support certain changes (in concept) or not, so that Council can ensure the amendments to be voted on are the amendments desired by the Members.

Please be aware that the changes below are summarized only, and **does not** represent any document that has been voted on or approved by the Tribal Council. There are 12 major changes in theory, with other changes that are necessary as a result of any given amendment. For example, if change number 6 is implemented, then everywhere that the word "Ogema" appears would be replaced by "Chairperson." The Tribal Council, as a body, has not voted to accept all of the changes summarized, nor has the Tribal Council determined that a complete re-write of the Constitution is going to happen. What the Tribal Council has agreed to is publishing these concepts to the Membership in this issue of the Currents, and moving forward on scheduling community meetings after the General Election is concluded, to obtain membership input on the actual amendments during public meetings.

The concepts for amendment published here are the culmination of many sources of input. The gathering of such input predates this Recorder's appointment to Office, but includes notes from meetings of Elders, direct commentary from Tribal Members, either by email or in writing, and input from the committee established by the Ogema. Some of the proposed amendments were also crafted from Council member input. It is important to understand how the amendments draft was created, so that members also understand that at this point, there is not agreement among the Tribal Council regarding which elements to move forward; if all changes should move forward at one time, or if amendments should be planned and voted on in election cycles.

It is crucial to note that any potential amendments to the Constitution will be forwarded to the BIA-Secretary of Interior for technical review. Following technical review, the Tribal Council would then vote by Resolution to forward any amendments to the Tribal Election Board, who in turn will contact BIA to schedule a Secretarial Election. Every registered voter would then be able to vote on any change to the Constitution, so how the ballot is crafted is important to the amendment process.

1. Membership to Citizenship; Member to Citizen

Throughout the Constitution, replace references to Member, Membership, Members to Citizen, Citizenship, Citizens and the like. This change occurs wherever the word appears, throughout the entire Constitution.

2. Modify the "Preamble" to include new language by adding the following paragraph:

Any rights and powers heretofore vested in the Tribe but not expressly referred to in this Constitution shall not be diminished by this Constitution and all Tribal ordinances, regulations and judicial decisions shall govern all people subject to the Tribe's jurisdiction.

3. Modify Article I-Territory to include the following language:

The territory of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians shall encompass all lands which are now or hereinafter owned by, reserved or held in trust for the Tribe and/or any Citizen of the Tribe by the United States of America, including the Manistee Reservation in Manistee County (Michigan), Custer and Eden Townships in Mason County (Michigan)

4. Modify Article III-Membership to include a changes as follows:

-Section 1. Eligibility for Citizenship. An individual is eligible for Citizenship in the Tribe, if he/she possesses at least one fourth (1/4) degree Michigan Ottawa Blood, of which at least one-eighth (1/8) degree must be Grand River Ottawa Blood

-Section 1 (a) is modified as follows: who resided in Manistee, Mason, Wexford or Lake Counties in the State of Michigan at the time the Durant Roll of 1908 was taken, who was listed on the schedule of Grand River Ottawa in the Durant Roll

-Section 3: Modify the prohibition on dual citizenship to include a new paragraph:

Such disenrollment shall be effective immediately upon acceptance of enrollment into another federally recognized Indian Tribe, Band, or Group.

-Section 5: This is an entirely new Section, and includes a restriction on benefit eligibility as follows: Citizenship Benefits. Any person whose application for enrollment has been approved shall be eligible for program benefits after a period of one year from the date of approved enrollment, except for health care which is effective immediately.

-Section 6: This is an entirely new Section, and includes restriction on Per Capita eligibility as follows: Any person whose application for enrollment has been approved shall be eligible to partake in per-capita distributions after a period of five years from the date of approved enrollment.

-Section 7: New Section, replacing the old relinquishment section. This imposes a 10 year prohibition, if a member relinquishes citizenship, they cannot reapply for membership in LRBOI for 10 years.

-Sections 8 & 9: New sections that replace the old "appeal rights" when membership is denied. This new language allows a person, if they were enrolled but subject to disenrollment after the fact, to maintain their rights until they exhaust all remedies in Tribal Court, rather than cutting them off until their appeal is final.

5. Create a new Article IV – Separation of Powers, include a new section as follows:

No branch of government, body or office set forth in this Constitution shall exercise the powers expressly vested in, or delegated to another branch of

- government body or office created by this Constitution. (Replaces old Art. IV-Tribal Council)
6. Create Article V- Tribal Council – This new section combines the current articles regarding the Ogema and Tribal Council into one branch of government. There are several changes, including how the representatives are elected, changes to qualifications in office, and changes that make people ineligible to run for office, as well as many others. This summary is a broad overview of this section:
- How Council is elected changes:
 - 4 Council Members are elected by 9 county
 - 4 Council Members are elected by all voters
 - 1 Council Member is elected by all voters, and serves as Chairman
 - Age to run for office changes from 21 to 35
 - Must have a minimum of High School Diploma or GED
 - Must pass background check – sets parameters for background and disqualifies for certain convictions. Prohibits persons with certain convictions from seeking office.
 - Must not have been recalled or removed from a prior elected office
 - Establishes a Vice Chairperson and Recorder position, creating a new officer position.
 - In order to combine the Ogema and Council into One Tribal Council, but keeping 9 representatives in place, to Respect our Chiefs, one Council position will be eliminated during the following election cycle.
7. Article VI – Tribal Judiciary- This section is not new, but changes proposed to this section include raising the age to run for Tribal Judge. The section also sets additional qualifications for non-member judges, requiring them to have at least 5 (five) years experience in Tribal Law, and spelling out how that experience can be demonstrated. There is also a new provision added that defines when an appointment to the Court is necessary and how that is carried out.
8. Article VII – General Membership Powers – This section is not new, but changes proposed to this section include raising the percentage of registered voters required to cause petition, recall or other action from 30% to 35%.
9. Article IX- Election – This section changes substantially, because it spells out the first election under the new amended constitution during which the Ogema and Council Branches will be combined. This section defines how the newly created body of Tribal Council will be elected from respective districts, and how the Chairperson is elected.
10. Article X- Resignation, Recall and Removal of Elected Officials – This section changes in that it spells out things that will result in removal of an elected official. It removes discretion from the Tribal Council to allow a person to remain in office if certain offenses happen. (Example: If an Elected Official is convicted of a felony involving theft, there is no option to allow that person to remain an Elected Official.) This section also raises the percentage of registered votes required to recall a public official from 30% to 35%. This section also prohibits an official from being recalled when there is 6 months or less remaining on their current term of office.
11. Article XI – Sovereign Immunity – The major change proposed to this section is that Elected Officials may be sued in their individual capacities under certain conditions. Basically, if an Elected Official is acting outside of their official capacity, they can be sued without the cover of Immunity. Other protections for the Tribe remain unchanged.
12. Article XIV – Amendments – This section changes by removing the Bureau of Indian Affairs from the amendment process. It also defines the percentage of membership required to vote during an amendment election. This section defines the Tribe's Election Board, rather than the Secretary of Interior, as the body responsible for carrying out and oversight for a constitutional amendment election. If this change is implemented, the BIA will no longer be a part of the amendment process.

Any schedule of public meetings regarding Constitutional Changes will be published as soon as that schedule is adopted by the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council reserves the right to move forward any or portions of amendment proposals to BIA for technical review at any point, within its discretion. No amendments to the Constitution will be enacted without a vote of the registered voters of the Tribe.

Highlights for October thru January 2011

Virg Johnson - Zoongede Mshekenh
231-398-6829
Councilor At Large

First, Aanii to all of you and I hope you had a very nice holiday season. It's been very busy season for myself from both a Government and Personal side. I believe you know one of my passions in life is enjoying the outdoors (especially hunting). With that said I've found balancing my calendar from work and personal can be challenging in the fourth quarter of this year. However with that said I've listed a few things I've been very active in as your voice in Tribal Government:

- 96% attendance for Council Meetings in 2010.
- My attendance for Work Sessions is running very close to 90% year to date (YTD).
- Since my appointment to the Board of Directors for Little River Casino Resort my attendance is 100% at the regular scheduled meetings.
- As the recording Secretary for Binojeeuk Commission I missed only one meeting year to date.
- Follow up to make sure all payments for the LRCR were made on time.
- Close to 90% attendances for the New Government Building task force meetings in 2010.
- Attended most of the Elders meeting missing only November and December's meeting.
- Attended the SORNA conference at GTB held January 2011.
- Championed the Ordinance for the Warriors Society which was approved by Tribal Council in the last quarter of 2010.
- The Resort is enjoying an increase of 26% tribal citizens for 2010. However we (Council) just finished up the Gaming Ordinance for LRCR and this Ordinance was approved by NIGC. This new Ordinance will open employment opportunities for our Tribal Citizens at the Resort.
- Attended the Sexual Harassment Training for LRBOI employees in October.

Just a friendly reminder, your voice is important to this tribe. Please register to vote if you haven't.

LRBOI Tribal Council											
Work Session Attendance											
Date	Work Session Title	Steve Parsons	Janine Sam	Loretta Beccaria	Candace Chapman	Virgil Johnson	Sandy Mezeske	Pat Ruiter	Lee Sprague	Robert Whiteloon	Total Attending
1/3/11	Member Insurance	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	7
1/3/11	Gaming Comm Budget	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	7
1/3/11	Rehabilitation for Licensure	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	7
1/3/11	Agenda Review	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	7
1/3/11	Member Insurance	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	7
1/4/11	Gaming Comm Restructure	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	9
1/4/11	Prosecutor Ordinance	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	9
1/4/11	Indian Preference Ordinance	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	9
1/10/11	Rehabilitation for Licensure	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	8
1/10/11	Commission Structure	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	8
1/10/11	Agenda Review	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	7
1/10/11	Tribal Emergency Response	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	7
1/11/11	Ogema/Council Mtg	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
1/11/11	Forest Co Potawatomi	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
1/11/11	Casino Financial Report	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
1/13/11	Bowling Boutique Concept		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	7
1/13/11	Chapter 7 Reg Gaming Comm		x	x	x	x		x		x	6
1/14/11	Rehabilitation for Licensure	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	9
1/14/11	Consultation Agreement/Tribes	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
1/17/11	Government Structure Ordinance	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	7
1/17/11	Agenda Review	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	7
1/17/11	Nov 2010 Financials Gov't	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	7
1/18/11	Sex Offender Registry Act	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	8
1/21/11	Government Structure Ordinance	x	x	x		x	x			x	6
1/24/11	Government Structure Ordinance	x	x	x		x	x			x	6
1/24/11	Rehabilitation for Licensure	x	x			x	x			x	5
1/25/11	Casino Budget FY 2011	x	x	x	x		x	x			6
1/25/11	Update Legislative Priorities	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		7
1/25/11	Financing New Gov't Center	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		7
1/25/11	Constitution Changes Review	x	x	x	x		x	x			6
1/28/11	Government Structure Ordinance	x	x	x			x	x		x	6
31	Totals for Jan	29	27	30	27	21	27	25	11	27	

During the month of January: Parsons, Beccaria, Mezeske & Johnson attended training at GTB for CASOM (related to sex offender registration.) .

January 6 & 7th

(The following information was sent in a letter to the Office of the Ogema)

The Indian Health Service Scholarship is now available online with a closing date of March 28, 2011. We do encourage students to submit their documents prior to the deadline so that we can attempt to review their application for completeness.

Attached is the listing of those health and pre health professions that the Indian Health Service Scholarship Program will consider.

This past cycle, the Bemidji Area (MI, MN, WI, IL and IN) had received 13 new awardees out of the 86 new national awards that were made and 3rd out of the 12 I.H.S. areas, behind Oklahoma and Aberdeen.

<http://www.ihs.gov/JobsCareerDevelop/DHPS/Scholarships/>

This is very competitive scholarship based on 1) GPA, 2) Student essay and 3) Two faculty/employer evaluations. It is NOT based on income or age and students may apply either full time or part time.

If you know of any students who are interested in applying for the I.H.S. Health Professions Scholarship or if you can share this information with those at your Tribal education programs, newspapers, websites, etc., it would be much appreciated.

Any questions, please contact me.

Tony

Anthony Buckanaga, Health Professions Recruiter

Indian Health Service

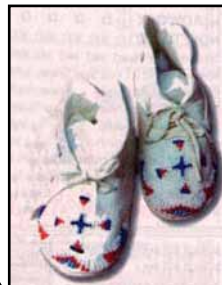
522 Minnesota Ave, NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

Phone: 218-444-0486 or 800-892-3079

Email: tony.buckanaga@ihs.gov

FAX: 218-444-0498



Jiingtamok 2011 Planning

The Historic preservation Department is having a meeting to plan the Jiingtamok and invites all community members with interest to attend to assist and take part in this event's development. The meeting will be held February 21 at 5:30 PM at the offices of the THP Department located at 294 River St in Manistee.



Muskegon Four Season's
2011 Gatherings
all dates times are same 11 am to 3 pm
ST. Thomas Hall
3252 Apple Ave { M-46 }
Muskegon , Michigan
POTLUCK = Dish to pass
tableware and beverage will be supplied
Raffles and Door Prizes and silent auctions
Leader Patti Wlodkowski 231-755-4865
Debra Gutowski
231-733-2891 -- 1-616-514-6065 - cell 231-557-1634

Feb----13 Valentine's Gathering
March -- 27 Easter Gathering
Oct -- 23 Halloween gathering
Nov --- 13 Ghost Supper
Dec --- 11 Christmas Gathering

11am to 3 pm all Sunday dates

**Everyone is welcome to come and share and socialize
and share the day and make memories.....**

Debra Gutowski-Director
Native American Ministry
360 Division Ave S suite 3A
Grand Rapids, MI. 49503
234-0491x 1517 { direct line } 514-6065
Fax { 551-5626 }

**God ask me how long
I planned on keeping you in my life.
I smiled and said...
how do I choose between forever and always...**

A new tribal program services guide has been produced by the tribal government. Go to the website of the tribe and check it out! It contains the latest information, names and numbers so you can find the services that you need.

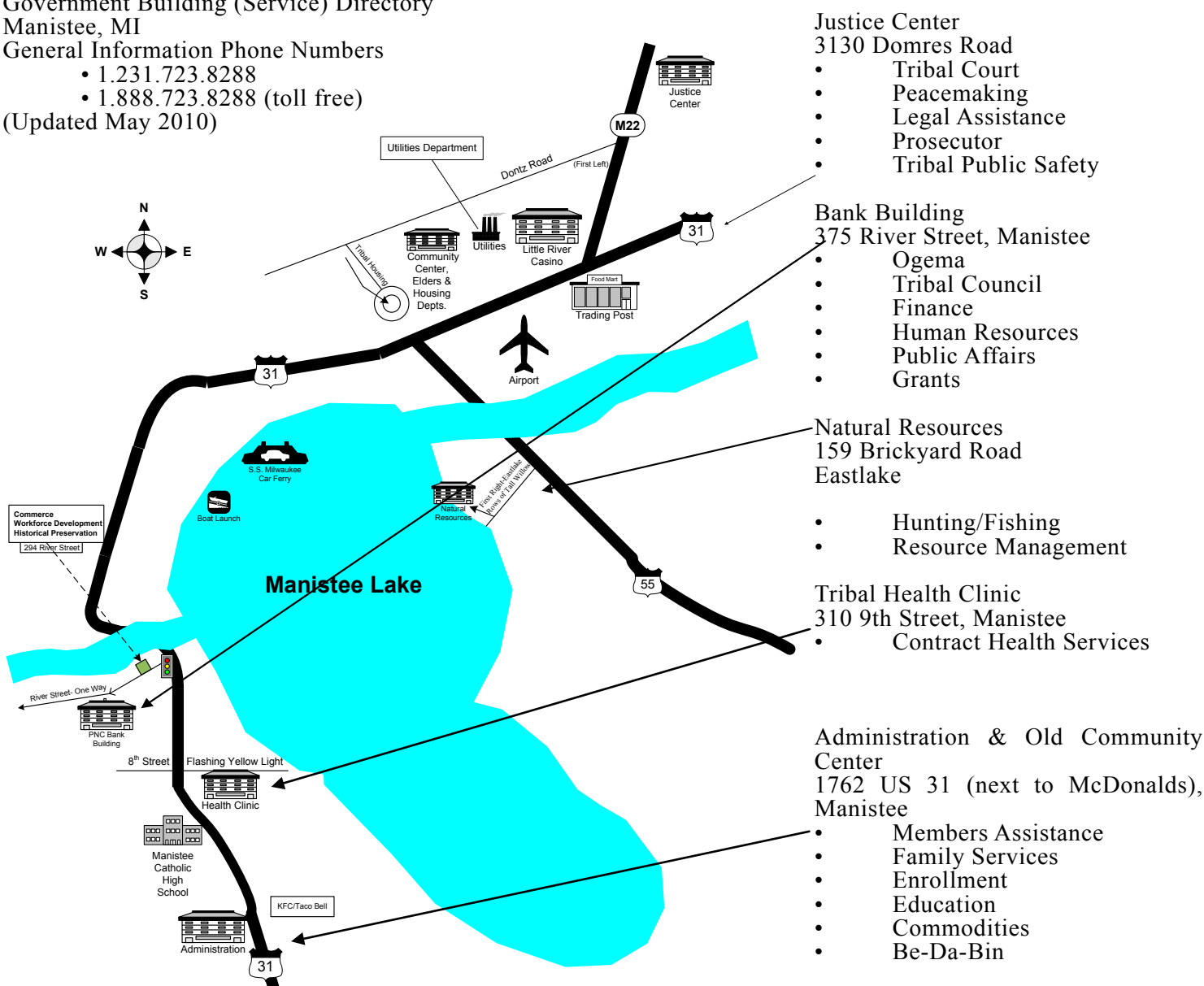
Also included are maps of the area with easy directions so you can find the office that you need.

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
 Government Building (Service) Directory
 Manistee, MI

General Information Phone Numbers

- 1.231.723.8288
- 1.888.723.8288 (toll free)

(Updated May 2010)



Operation Back 2 School

Warriors Society pitches in to help the children



The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Warriors Society recently pitched in on a project brought to our attention by Tribal Citizen Janeen Codden, currently on active military duty in Afghanistan.

Several months ago, Janeen let the tribe know about a program they are calling, "Operation Back 2 School" which is providing backpacks of school supplies in support of the 'Educated-King' High School in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The project is designed to send individual backpacks filled with paper, pencils, erasers, crayons and other school items.

Warriors Society member, Virgil Johnson spearheaded the project for the veterans and filled backpacks which will now be sent over for distribution to the young folks of the school. These supplies will go far in helping them gain an education. Such an education is key to their future freedom and success!

Earlier, Tribal Court and Public Affairs also filled backpacks and sent them to Janeens' Chaplain who is handling the distribution. All together, they hope to supply 650 full backpacks!

If you would like to participate, please contact the Office of Public Affairs for more information at 231.398.6872 or gzaring@lrboi-nsn.gov.



Tax-Exempt Quotas

Tax-exempt motor fuel monthly limit is 175 gallons per Tribal member.

Tax-exempt cigarette monthly limit is 20 packs per Tribal member.

Earned Income Tax Credit

You may be eligible to get money back!

If your total earned income is at least \$1 but less than

- \$35,535 if you have one qualifying child, or
- \$40,363 if you have 2 qualifying children, or
- \$43,352 if you have 3 or more qualifying children, or
- \$13,460 if you have no children

... You may qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a credit worth up to \$5,666 that is designed to supplement wages and to reduce the tax burden on low- or moderate-income workers. Depending on eligibility and income level, eligible workers either get money back or pay less in taxes. For more information, contact the IRS, visit <http://www.irs.gov/eitc>, or contact the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tax Office at 231-398- 6874.

Maximize Your Tax Return!

The following is an excerpt from Oweesta's "Building Native Communities" A Tribal Leader's Guide to Launching an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Campaign.

What are the Real Costs of Rapid Refunds or Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs)?

Using a rapid refund from a commercial tax preparer allows taxpayers to access their tax refund in just a few days and in some cases instantly. But these rapid refunds are actually high-interest loans called Refund Anticipation Loans or RALs.

They are short-term loans secured by the expected refund from the IRS. While this product may look good, it comes with very high costs. In some cases, waiting a few extra days can double the amount of a taxpayer's return.

The following example illustrates the impact that fees can have on an individual's tax refund.

Example of High Tax Preparation Fees*

Mike Brown hired a commercial preparer to file his tax return because he was uncomfortable doing it himself. He was told by the preparer that he would not have to pay anything up front for the service, but that the fees would be taken out of his refund amount. The preparer told him he could leave the office that day with a check for \$258.05. That sounded good to Mike because he was broke and needed the money to get his car fixed. He completed all the forms, collected his check, and headed to the car mechanic. Later that night, he started reading the paperwork he got from the commercial tax preparer. What he did not realize was that his rapid refund was really a loan that would be paid back when his tax return arrived from the IRS. He could not believe that his refund was originally \$723! He had paid \$464.95 to get his own money. He decided that next year, he would look for a better way to file his tax return. He might look for a free tax preparation site, even if it means waiting a few more days for his refund!

Here is a list of the \$464.95 worth of fees that Mike paid.

Tax Preparation Fee	\$382.00
System Administration/Electronic Filing Fee	43.00
Refund Account Fee	24.95
Bank Finance Charge	<u>15.00</u>
Total Fees Withheld	\$464.95

Total Amount of Return	\$723.00
Total Fees Withheld	<u>464.95</u>
Amount Refunded by Check	\$258.05

*This example is based on an actual transaction between a taxpayer and a commercial preparer, but the names and circumstances have been changed.

Free Tax Preparation Sites

There are many free tax preparation sites available to seniors and low-income taxpayers. The Tax Office will maintain a list with contact information for these sites within the nine-county area. To find a site near you, call 1-800-906-9887.

To ensure continued outreach efforts to tribal citizens for available programs the Members Assistance Department will from time to time post information in the currents.

REACH Program-

Funding is available to assist households with weatherization concerns. The program is available to citizens residing in the 9 County Services Area.

This program is successful in decreasing energy costs and in our current economy energy savings would be helpful to our already low income households. Studies have shown that replacing regular bulbs with energy efficient CFL lighting reduces energy costs by 20%. This is only one portion the program and with a combination of other elements the cost savings for households is tremendous. The REACH program promotes: Energy Smart Bulbs, Weatherization & Education, Energy Smart Appliances, Smoke and Carbon Dioxide Detectors, Fire Extinguishers

The funding for this program will end September 31, 2011.

To request an application, contact the Members Assistance Department

ELDER MEAL PROGRAM – Aki Community Center – Manistee

The elder meals are served three days a week - Monday, Wednesday and

Friday. Elders may contact the Members Assistance Department for the Intake form to participate in this program. You may also complete the Intake form at the meal site. The program is provided to reduce hunger and food insecurity, Promote socialization of Elders and Promote health and well-being of older individuals and delay adverse health conditions through access to nutrition and other disease prevention and health promotion services.

There are no income requirements to participate and spouses may attend with Elder at no charge. Please contact the Members Assistance Department or Noelle Cross the Elder Meals Administrator at 231-723-8288 or Toll free 888-723-8288 for the Intake process. The monthly menu is published in the Currents, Rapid River News and posted in each building.

Volunteering in your Community: To keep costs down The Elder Meal Program relies on volunteer help to assist with meal preparation, activities and clean up, If you would like to volunteer at the meal site please contact Noelle Cross for more information.

Elder Meal Program

The Elder Meal Program relies on the community for a successful program. The program was implemented in July 2010 and has proved to be beneficial to the elders who attend. It is an exciting time for the tribe in providing this service to the tribal Elders. Noelle Cross and her cook staff are a hit with the Elders! Each meal is prepared to meet the nutritional needs of the elders. Feedback on the meals has been positive to say the least! We currently have 83 signed up for meals and serve on average 44 meals each day with the number slightly higher on Wednesday s. We contribute this increase to the Elder Wii bowling activity sponsored by the Health Clinic. The elders participating in this activity have a great time bowling and interacting with each other. The Wii Bowling is one of many activities for the elders. The Health Clinic has introduced chair exercise, foot clinics and other socialization activities and will continue these efforts to keep the elders active, in shape and enjoying themselves! Each month Noelle prepares for a special day called Elder Birthdays of the Month, this is a celebration of the elders who will be celebrating their birthday that month. Noelle prepares a birthday cake and the birthday elders in attendance receive a birthday gift! The service departments within tribal government participate in the elder program by presenting information on elder topics. An example of this tribal collaboration is the Family Services Department presenting on Elder Depression or the Tribal Historic Preservation Office presenting a movie that has cultural relevance. These types of information sharing are important to the goals of the Elder Meal Program and is an outreach service to the elders should they find the need to seek further assistance or information. Further outreach efforts were initiated in January by extending the meals to the Elder Committee. The Elder Meal Program prepares the meals for the monthly Elder Committee Meeting held the first Saturday of each month.

This outreach not only provides the attending elders with a nutritious meal but also allows elders who cannot attend meal days during the week to attend.

As we progress the program will be providing more information presentations and workshops for this group. As with other meal programs in communities such as Meals on Wheels or Senior Center congregate meals, these programs need community help by way of donations and contributions as well as volunteers to keep them running. The donations we collect at each meal are placed back into the program to provide for activities and for meal supplies. The new grant cycle for this program will begin April 1st 2011 and we will not have the carryover funds we currently have. While it is not required to donate or help, please help if you can or where you can. This program is new to the tribe and we have gratefully received welcomed help from people in the community, including elders who participate in the program! We would like to thank our volunteers who have and continue to make the Elder Meals Program successful. There are many different ways the volunteers have helped the program. Their thought, time, and "Dishpan hands" have been so appreciated!

Thank you, Joan and Delano Peters for their thoughtfulness and time in helping serve meals to our Elders who cannot make it to the meal site. Thank you, Michelle Bernatche for spending your lunch hour washing dishes, putting away stock, breaking down boxes and the many other things you do to help us!!!

Thank you Angie Turner for the Bananas!! The Elders enjoyed them and with the left over bananas we are planning to bake Banana bread with them. We can't forget Kathy Lagerquist for bringing them to AKI for us! Kathy and Angie work for our Family Services Department.

Thanks Dave Corey and Jim Medacco for the fresh vegetables!

Big thanks to Michael Cross for his help during our February Elders Committee lunch. You really worked hard and we appreciate it and hope to see you come back again!

Thanks Jamie for scrubbing the pans and making the dessert look pretty!

Thanks Darby for doing dishes and clean-up!

Matthew Circle from DYMALOMA for donating his extra Breads and rolls! The Elders really enjoy it. Matthews's son Logan has also been a great help. Whether it is moving chairs, putting away stock or helping his Dad with our delivery; Logan is working hard and sharing his beautiful smile!

Many have donated items for our Bingo games, Joan, Helen, Lucy, Felisa, Judy, Arlene and June.

We would also like to thank Cyndi Jacobi and Emily Proctor from MSU extension for volunteering her time teaching our Elders about nutrition.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered, donated or contributed in one way or another. It really helps to make the Elder Meal Program successful. To anyone who is interested in volunteering in anyway please feel free to contact me at (231) 398-6886 or stop by Aki Monday thru Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

~ Volunteers do not necessarily always have the time; they just have the heart. ~
Elizabeth Andrew

March... Why Corn Beef and Cabbage????

Corn beef got it's name due to the process of curing the beef with salt that not only kept it from going bad. CVabbage was grown without difficulty in Irelands climate, which was damp and cold. Although cabbage is a rather tasteless vegetable when cooked on it's own, it gains more desirable flavor when it is cooked with salty meat. Hence the tradition began. Rinsing, then soaking the Corn beef in cold water rinses away a lot of the salt before preparing it!!

Please Contact Noelle Cross with any questions

Phone: 231-398-6886

E-Mail: ncross@lrboi.com

Volunteers are always welcomed to help with meals if interested please contact Noelle.

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Chicken Parmesan Pasta Italian Veggies LTO Salad Jell-o <i>Activity:</i> <i>Wii Bowling</i>	3	4 Chicago Style Hotdog French Fries(baked) Baked Beans	5 Elder Committee Mtg. Corn beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots, Dinner roll and cake
6	7 Rost Turkey Baked Potato Seasonal Broccoli Peach Cobbler	8	9 Hot Beef Sandwich Mashed Potato Green Beans Chilled Apricots <i>Activity:</i> <i>Wii Bowling</i>	10	11 Chicken Salad wheat Pasta Salad Lettuce and Tom Carrot Coins Prunes/Pears	12
13	14 Eggs Breakfast Sausages Hash Browns Orange Slices Angel Food Cake	15	16 Beef Ravioli California Veggie blend Fresh Tomato Wedge Garlic bread sticks	17	18 Fish Filet Potato Wedge Cole Slaw Applesauce	19
20	21 Chicken Breast Baked Potato Green Beans Pudding	22	23 French dip Potato wedges Peas Jell-O <i>Activity:</i> <i>Wii Bowling</i>	24	25 Enchilada Spanish Rice Carrots Churros	26
27	28 Offices Closed Treaty Recognition Day	29	30 Goulosh Pasta Mixed Veggie Tapioca <i>Activity:</i> <i>Wii Bowling</i>	31		

Meals served at 12 O'clock

- No Charge to Elders, thier Spouse and Handicap/Disabled individuals who reside with Elder.
- Guests Meals are \$5.00

Donations are much appreciated and will be used for activities & food.

Lets Gets Healthy!

Friday the 4th is Elder Birthday of the Month Celebration!

Monday the 7th and Monday the 21st Chair Exercises!

Every Wednesday is Wii Bowling!

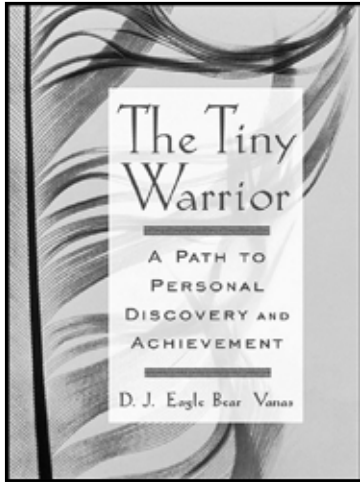
Friday the 25th BINGO!

Noelle will keep you updated of additional activities.

Coffee, Milk and water are available at every meal.

Menue subnject to change without notice.

Meals meet 33% of the RDI based on a 1600 to 2000 calorie diet.



D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas (Odawa) is a nationally acclaimed motivational storyteller, leadership expert and the author of *The Tiny Warrior*. D.J. uses traditional warrior concepts and wisdom to inspire people to work smarter, lead better and enjoy the journey more. He can be reached at (719) 282-7747 or at <http://www.nativediscovery.com>

Keep up the great work and enjoy the journey!

Miigwetch,

D.J. Vanas

Native Discovery Inc.

(719) 282-7747 v

(719) 282-4113 f

www.nativediscovery.com

“Inspiring the warrior spirit...”

Back to Basics

By D.J. Vanas © 2006

The scene is a familiar one – we’re lying on the couch, a few dollars shorter and few pounds heavier than you were before the Holidays. Just when we feel we’re finally getting some rest, it’s back to work. Instead of feeling a surge of excitement about the year ahead, many times we feel frustration, depression, or nothing at all.

I’ve got great news! No, I didn’t just save a bunch of money on my car insurance. The great news is that it doesn’t have to be this way! Making positive life change is not rocket science or a mystery – it’s often a simple journey back to basics. I find that most people struggle in their pursuit of success, not because of a lack of intelligence, resources or time, but a lack of two critical ingredients: commitment and a plan.

When we make a commitment, we engage all of our personal assets – spirit, mind and body – into the “ON” position, not the “almost on”, “on when it’s easy” or “on if I get around to it” position. And a goal without a plan is simply a dream. A dream is a start, but planning means, breaking it into small, achievable steps, gathering the resources you’ll need (books, advice, time, money, etc.) creating a timeline for each step and getting busy! What I’ll share with you now, is a primer to massively improve the major areas of your life by making some small, but powerful changes. These are some of the best tips I’ve gathered over the years from personal experience, mentors, books and classes – and they get results!

Spiritual – Whether it’s attending ceremony, church, meditation or prayer, reinforcing the practice of your beliefs will fill your spiritual well and keep you strong. It keeps us connected to a higher power that reminds there is more at work in the universe than our personal problems and challenges. I’ve found there is no force more empowering, enlightening, healing or peace-giving than the power of prayer. Adopt an attitude of gratitude – be grateful for all things in your life, the blessings and the struggles. No matter how tough you’ve had it this year, be grateful for what you *do have* and that *you’re still here*. And if you think

you’ve had it bad, remember the victims the earthquake in Haiti or the families of our troops that paid the ultimate price.

Family – If this is a foundation in your life, invest time in your family. When you make an investment, you place resources into something that grows more valuable over time. I’ve found that no matter how good things are, if something is wrong with my family, than my world is not right. Make a new commitment this year to *make time* for your loved ones. Love your children 100% unconditionally every day and you’ll build strong, confident kids. “Date” your spouse and keep the romance alive on purpose, with purpose. Remember, that person will be there after the kids have gone. Your employer may value you, but they’ll never love you like your family does.

Fitness – With all the diet fads and too-good-to-be-true products, it’s easy to feel overwhelmed about fitness and weight loss. But losing weight today is as simple as it was 10,000 years ago – burn more calories than you take in. Being an avid fitness enthusiast for twenty years, I’ve found the best “diet” is exercise and the best exercises are the ones you do consistently. Diabetes, junk food and obesity have invaded this nation. US News said over 60% of this nation is overweight, 30% are morbidly obese. Keep it simple – drink lots of water, get adequate rest, eat lots of fruit and vegetables, stop smoking and exercise at least 30 minutes daily, not just to get back in shape, but for the rest of your life. The benefits are endless and range from feeling better and looking better, to better mental clarity and longer life.

Career – Feeling frustrated at work? Confused about your next career move? Wonder what it takes to succeed? Here’s a solution to the dilemma. Grab the most successful people you know and ask this: How did you get where you are? You’ll find it’s not luck that got them there but the same two ingredients mentioned at

the beginning of this article – *commitment* and *a plan*. Role model success the same way we role model others to learn to play sports, dance or drive a car. Be a solution-oriented person and find ways around, over, under or through challenges. Good employers want people who solve problems – even when working with limited timeframes or budgets. You’ll get promoted faster, earn more and feel more productive than ever.

Finance – Especially after the Holidays, this can be a big source of stress. Make a commitment to spend less than you earn this year. Create and follow a budget. This way you can save, give to charity or put away money for retirement or a college fund for your kids. Get rid of credit card debt as soon as possible, treating it like a cancer to your financial stability (which it is). I know from personal experience that debt is painful, poverty is not glorious and nothing you buy will make you feel as good as being financially stable and secure. Trying to “keep up with the Joneses” will only keep you broke. Learn to live with less and get educated on the better use of your money.

Get back to basics – commit to your ideas, create a plan to make them a permanent part of your life and make this your best year yet! I’ll be with you each month as we walk that path together. May the Creator shower each step of your journey with success and blessings...

D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas (Odawa) is a nationally acclaimed motivational storyteller, success coach and the author of the celebrated book, “*The Tiny Warrior: A Path to Personal Discovery & Achievement*” and audio CD series “*The Warrior Within*”. D.J. uses traditional warrior concepts and wisdom to inspire people to achieve their best in life, school and career and owns Native Discovery Inc., a company dedicated to “building the warriors of tomorrow... today.” He can be reached at (719) 282-7747 or at <http://www.nativediscovery.com>



What does “Pine-Koan” mean?

Well, first of all, it is not “cone,” but a two syllable word, “ko-an,” which is pronounced (Co-when).

Koan: It is a nonsensical or paradoxical question to a student for which an answer is demanded, (in my case you can add the word “comedic” in there as well), the quandary of meditation on the question, often resulting in illumination or epiphany.

Pine: coniferous evergreen trees that have slender elongated needles, common to woodland regions, such as Manistee, Michigan.
So, therefore....

“Pine-Koans” are: Stories that make you think about a life lesson, set in a piney woodland region.

“THE BUFFALO RIDE”

by
Austen Brauker

Sophie makes coffee. Penny sits at the kitchen table. Penny looks at Sophie and smiles. “Thanks for putting me up for the night.” Sophie opens a cupboard and grabs cups. “That’s no problem. Everybody runs out of gas at least once in their life. Yousta been Indians did this all the time for each other. They’d be travelin’ here or there. Just come a knockin’. Always had a place to stay, food to eat. That’s the way it was, long time ago. Usually come to find you was related or knew the same people from here or there. It’s a small world, Indian country.” Penny sighs, “It seems like a big world to me.” Sophie hands Penny a cup of steaming coffee. “You know, we yousta have buffalo here in the woods, a long time ago. People think they was just out west, but we had ‘em here too.” Sophie squints one eye. “Not as many, but they was here too. I heard stories about it.” Penny leans forward, “Really? What kind of stories. I’d like to hear a story.” “Well, let me see.” Sophie looks up at the ceiling. “Long time ago there was this young man. He was always talkin’ about buffalo. He loved them things. S’all he ever talked about, ever since he was a little boy. Buffalo this, buffalo that. You know how kids gets.” She rolls her eyes and takes a drink. “Well, he tells his Ma...Someday I’m gonna ride me a buffalo, just like people rides horses.” Sophie pauses. “His Ma didn’t think too much of it at the time. She’s thinkin’, that’s just the kind of crazy stuff a kid thinks about, right? But, even when he grewed up bigger, he still kept at it, same as ever. Then people start whisperin’ ’bout him. They notice he ain’t quite regular. Thought he was a bit tetches, you know.” She spins a finger next to her temple and makes a face. Penny laughs. Sophie stands up and walks over to the coffee pot. She empties the used coffee filter and looks back. “So, I guess the way they hunted for buffalo back then was to get in a tree and just wait there ‘til one went by. Then they’d shoot at it, or stab it, or whatever they did to kill one of those things.” Sophie makes a stabbing gesture, as if

using a spear. Penny says, “Kinda like spearin’ salmon, right?” Sophie rolls her eyes. “Yeah, ‘cept it’s a thousand pound salmon, with inch thick skin.” She puts both hands up to the side of her head like horns. “And great big horns.” She takes a drink of coffee. “So, there he is, up there in that tree, just lookin’ down on that buffalo, thinkin’ in his mind, I bet I could do it. I bet I could jump on right now and ride that thing like a horse.” Sophie stands up and grabs the coffee pot. She fills Penny’s cup. She puts the pot back and sits down. Penny is eager to hear the rest. “And then what happened?” Sophie narrows her eyes. “Well, what do you think happened? Crazy kid like that.” She slaps her hand on table. “He jumped on the dang thing and landed right on its back.” She starts laughing as if she had been there. Penny can’t wait. “Did he get to ride it?” Sophie is full of vinegar. “Oh, yeah! He rode it, alright!” She stands up. “He grapt hold of the horns like handle bars.” She reaches out like she’s holding a steering wheel. “So that buffalo takes off at full speed.” Sophie runs in place like she’s galloping. “That buffalo takes four or five steps and all the sudden hits the brakes. “ Her hand soars away from her body. “That boy flies off up over the top of the horns and lands flat on his back.” She claps her hands together horizontally. Penny is enthralled. “Then what happened?” “Well, what do you think happened? That buffalo rams him about five times, then stomps him flatter’n strawberry pancakes.” Sophie sits back down and takes a drink of her coffee. Penny sounds doubtful. “Is this a true story?” “Sophie leans toward her. “Doesn’t matter. It’s a story.” She shrugs. “Story is a story.” She leans back, creaking her chair. “Is any story true that ain’t actually happenin’ right then, right when it’s gettin’ told?” She stares at Penny. Penny is wide eyed. “But is that all? Did he die?” “Oh, no. Not right away, anyways. There’s more.” She leans forward, creaking her chair. “He lays there all day, all bashed up, bleedin’ and what not. People’s all

lookin’ around for him here and there, and then up comes his Ma. She sees him laid out flat there, bleedin’ on the ground.” Sophie waves her hands in the air. “She runs over and starts cryin’ and lamentin’ over him...What did you do? Oh my son! What did you do?” Penny says, “This is so sad.” “No, not really, because that boy looks up smilin’. Happy as a clam.” Penny can’t believe her ears. “What? He’s happy to be all mashed up and bleedin’ on the ground?” Sophie slaps her thigh. “You know what? That’s exactly what his momma said to him. She says... Why are you so happy, son? He looks up at her and says...Because Mother, I got to do the one and only thing that I ever wanted to do! I did it! I rode a buffalo!” Penny is happy. “So, he lived!” “No, of course not. Not after all that. He died right then. Everyone just thought...Yep, he really was crazy...But then all the men goes out hunting. They kilt that buffalo. Everyone ate it. They made his Momma a robe outta the hide. She kept warm with that old thing ‘til the day she died.” Penny sounds sad. “So, everybody dies?” “Yep. Everybody dies. That’s the way of it.” Sophie relaxes and smiles warmly. “But, don’t forget, that in between, they ate some buffalo. They kept warm. They told winter time stories about that crazy kid who once rode on one. Some people never get a story told about them. Maybe he was lucky that way.” Sophie reconsiders. “But, then again, maybe he was just crazy.”

*Brought to you by the
Peacemaking/Probation
Department*



How it Impacts American Indians and Alaska Natives



Congress enacted a new health care law which provides several new benefits to all Americans. Many of the benefits and protections in the new health care law are particularly critical to American Indians and Alaska Natives. Some of these changes you will see this year. Others phase in over the next several years. By knowing what's in the law and when the different provisions take effect, you can take advantage of the changes for yourself and your family.

Strengthens the Indian Health Service

- Provides for permanent authorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. This includes funding for programs to increase the Indian health care workforce, new services for promoting health and preventing disease, additional ways to improve access to health care services, construction of Indian health facilities, and an Indian youth suicide prevention grant program.

Makes Health Insurance More Accessible

- Those without insurance, small businesses and self-employed people will be able to purchase private health insurance through state-based health insurance exchanges, by 2014.

- The new law may give you access to insurance coverage before 2014 if you have a pre-existing condition and have been uninsured for at least six months. This coverage – known as the “Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan” – is currently available in your state. Coverage under this program will continue until the health insurance exchanges start in 2014. Then, all insurance plans will be required to cover pre-existing conditions.

Lowers Costs

- For new health plans, you will no longer have to pay some of the out-of-

pocket costs for preventive care such as mammograms, immunizations and screenings for cancer or diabetes.

- If you have Medicare, you'll qualify for a new annual wellness visit, mammograms, and other screenings for cancer and diabetes. These new benefits start in 2011 and you will not have to pay for them.

- Starting in 2011, if you reach the Medicare Part D coverage gap or “doughnut hole”, you will receive a 50% discount on your brand-name prescription drugs and a 7% discount on your generic prescription drugs while you are in the coverage gap. The gap will gradually narrow until it disappears in 2020.

- Starting in 2014, if you earn less than about \$58,000 for a couple, or about \$43,000 for an individual, you will get tax credits to help you pay your premiums for health insurance purchased through an exchange. (Higher income levels may apply in Alaska and Hawaii.)

Eliminates Discriminatory Insurance Practices

- Health insurance companies can't drop your health coverage if you become sick. Your health insurance is guaranteed as long as you continue to pay your premiums. There are also new protections in place to limit excessive premiums because of your age or gender.

- Insurance companies can no longer place lifetime or annual limits on your health coverage – giving you peace of mind that your benefits won't run out when you need them the most. The ban on lifetime limits started in 2010, while the ban on annual limits begins in 2014.

Helps Pay for Long-Term Care

- A new voluntary long-term care insurance program – called CLASS – will be available to you if you are working. This program will help you pay for some of your future long-term care services. You will receive a cash benefit if you have a qualifying disability, have paid into the program for at least five years, worked at least three of those initial five years, and meet other eligibility requirements. If your employer decides to take part in the program, you will be enrolled automatically unless you choose not to participate. You will also be able to buy this insurance even if your employer doesn't join the program, if you are self-employed, or have more than one employer. This program is likely to start in 2012 or 2013.

- If you are married to someone on Medicaid who is receiving care services at home, you will have the same protections for your income and other resources as do spouses of those on Medicaid who live in a nursing home. Starts in 2014.

- Your state may also be able to receive financial incentives to provide greater access to the services and supports you need to live independently in your own home and community.

Check www.aarp.org/getthefacts frequently for the latest information.



Wisconsin Resources Protection Council

For Immediate Release, January 18, 2011

Contacts: Jamie Saul, (608) 628-2420
Laura Gauger, (218) 724-3004
Al Gedicks, Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, (608) 784-4399
Marc Fink, Center for Biological Diversity, (218) 525-3884

Lawsuit Filed to Stop Release of Toxic Metals at Wisconsin's Flambeau Mine

MADISON, Wis.— The Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, the Center for Biological Diversity and Laura Gauger filed a Clean Water Act citizen suit today against Flambeau Mining Company over its partially reclaimed Flambeau Mine near Ladysmith, Wis. According to the suit, the mining company is violating federal law by discharging pollutants, including potentially toxic metals like copper, iron and zinc, into the Flambeau River and a tributary known as “Stream C” that flows across the company’s property.

The Flambeau is a popular river for fishing and canoeing and provides habitat for a wide variety of aquatic and wildlife species, including bald eagles and osprey. The Flambeau Mine operated near the river from 1993 to 1997. Since the close of mining operations, Flambeau Mining Company has struggled to address persistent groundwater- and surface-water-quality problems, most notably at a 32-acre industrial park that remains operational.

The mining company channels stormwater runoff from this industrial park into a settling basin that discharges into a tributary of the Flambeau River. Monitoring data from the mining company and the state show that copper levels in the discharge have greatly exceeded Wisconsin’s toxicity standards. The stormwater detention basin once held highly toxic acid mine drainage and runoff from the open-pit mine.

“The Clean Water Act requires that Flambeau Mining Company’s pollution discharges be regulated by a permit that sets clear limits on the amount of pollutants and protects the water quality of Stream C and the Flambeau River,” said Jamie Saul, an attorney for the citizen groups. “Without such a permit, Flambeau Mining Company is in violation of the Act.”

“For too long, Flambeau Mining Company has ignored its obligation to protect the water quality of Stream C and the Flambeau River,” said Laura Gauger, an individual plaintiff in the lawsuit. “This is yet another example of the company’s history of broken promises to the people of Rusk County and the Native American community.”

"So, with the Native way, it's not whether people find out about what you've done or not... that's not nearly as strong as having your source of morality within you, having your morality arise out of an inner perception of what is wrong, ridiculous, or shameful. You are your own judge."

--Eunice Baumann-Nelson, Ph.D., PENOBSCOT

Inside each of us is a voice. It is a quiet voice. It is a guiding voice. If we listen for it, it will guide us, and help us avoid disaster. It is especially active when we are afraid, when we are in doubt, when we are scared, when we need help, and when we get angry. If we are excited emotionally, it is hard to hear this voice. If we are angry, it's hard to hear this voice because it is usually quiet. The best thing we can do is to practice getting quiet. If we don't get quiet, there is another voice called the judge. It tells us to attack or say bad things to other people or to judge ourselves. This voice is loud and usually gets us into trouble.

Creator, Great Mystery, help me listen for the quiet voice. Let me know this voice of Yours. Your ways are gentle. Guide me with this voice.

Thank you.



Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Elders Department
River Street
Manistee, MI. 49660
Phone: 1-888-723-8288
231-398-6880

Chairman: Ronald Pete
Secretary: Marcella Leusby

Trustee: Connie Waitner
Trustee: Martha Kase

Dear Candidate;

This is an invitation to attend the Elder's Meeting on March 5th, 2011.

We hope you will come at noon and eat with the elders.

When the meeting is called to order, Each of you will be introduced, given 5 minutes for you to speak to the elders. There will be no questions from the elders.

We hope you will take this opportunity to, put a face on the name, what you feel are the most pressing issues facing our Nation now and in the future and to give your vision of the direction where you believe the Nation needs to be moving.

William Sam



This picture by the TeePee was taken around 1936, this was taken at the first Cherry Festival they had on the 4th of July here in Manistee. The city officials asked him to bring his family into town and camp at the beach during the 3 day fesitval.

My Mom said they were paid a small amount to be put on display like dime store indians, but times were tough and they needed the money. They never did it again. Mom was about 10 at the time. Grandpa William told stories, which he liked to do, to who ever would listen. Mom said that was the only time she ever saw him dressed in buckskin and feathers.

This is how I remember him, he would cut wood for the cook stove on his knees. You can see his cane on the wood pile. He always had that with him. He was a tall slender man, gentle, stern, and very proud. I think he was close to 100 years old when he died.

Loretta Beccaria

MIEA reps to be chosen

The Michigan Indian Elders Association (MIEA) election will be held in March. The Elders will be voting on 2 attendees to represent the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. One will be a Veteran Warrior who can carry the Tribal Flag and there will be 1 alternate chosen. These people will attend the Michigan Indian Elders Association meetings to represent our Tribal Elders.

MIEA first Meeting will be April 18th thru April 20th in Sault Saint Marie, Michigan.

Elders Survey Time!

Members Assistance is working on the 2010 Elders Survey for the Administration on Aging and needs your help. Participating elders will receive a gift of appreciation (\$10.00 gift card) and a certificate of participation. We are in need of at least 250 surveys and have only 83 completed so far. Elders interested in participating in this survey are asked to contact the Members Assistance Department at 888-723-8288



Joe Eno on the right shot this nice buck on December 3, 2010 in School Craft County. Left in the picture is his brother John.



Ray Aprill Shot his Cow Elk on December 23, 2010 north of Atlanta

Dear Lord,

May all hunters be blessed with your grace.

*To all who wander the fields and forests,
may you guide them safely back to camp.*

*Thank you for the blessings of
venison meat. Let the hunters
always remember it is a gift from you.*

*Thank you also for the hunting
knowledge, fellowship and outdoor
experiences you give the hunters.
May they always remember
these blessings from you.*

Amen.



Mitch Theodore shot his 8 point buck on November 15, 2010 in Manistee County.

Members advertisements

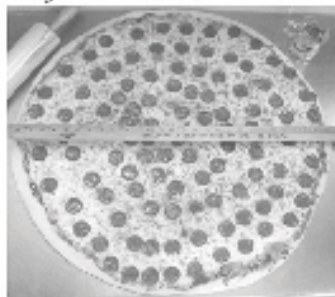
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March 2011 vol.8 Issue 3

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Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP is a full service law firm that limits its practice to Indian tribes and Native American organizations throughout the U.S.



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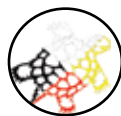
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Government Closes for the following Holidays

- *New Years Day
- *Treaty Recognition Day
- *Memorial Day
- *Independence Day
- *Labor Day
- *Reaffirmation Day (September 21st)
- *Veteran's Day
- *Thanksgiving Day
- *Friday after Thanksgiving Day
- *Christmas Eve Day (Half Day)
- *Christmas Day

Some areas of the government will be continue to be available on these holidays, such as Public Safety.

Currents will inform you of any scheduled closings of the Government facilities. It's always a good idea to call first if you are not sure.

Just use the toll-free number of 888.723.8288.



- * Tree Removal
- * Chipping
- * Bucket Truck Specialist
- * Insurance Work
- * Firewood
- * Stump Grinding

Mitch Theodore
94 N. Park St.
Muskegon, Mi. 49442
Office 231-788-2123

The Warriors Society is
Gathering photographs of members to be
use when their office opens.

Please send photos of
our Warriors either in
Uniform or in
Civilian dress to
the address below

WARRIORS SOCIETY

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians,
Warriors Society,
375 River Street, Manistee, Mi. 49660

Casino Food Drive a Success!

Ziisabaakdoke-Giizis (Sugar Moon)
March 2011 vol.8 Issue 3



Everyone knows that this is a hard time for some of our Manistee area families and on January 10th, the Little River Casino Resort staff showed their caring and generosity by wrapping up a food and cash drive for the local Salvation Army. LRCR ran a food drive & cash donations effort from December 15th thru January 7th.

The casino had 1106 food items donated and \$302.07 cash donations into the Salvation Army Red Kettles.

Monday morning of the 10th, the Salvation Army truck pulled up to the Interim Casino building to pick up the pounds of food and stacks of items.

Key personnel involved in the drive were Eric Gustad, Maria Maddox, and Sue Lytle.



Food Distribution Program (FDPIR) was created by congress in 1977 Food Stamp Act as an alternative to the Food Stamp Program for Indian Reservations. The program offers commodity to low income Native American households. No household may participate in both the Commodity Food Program and Food Stamp Program, but eligible households can switch from one program to the other at the end of each month. Eligibility and participation for FDPIR are based on application and certification requiring tribal status, income and resources qualification. In determining who is eligible for the program. We are federally funded by the USDA and they set the regulations and guidelines for the Commodity Program.

USDA Income

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

Net Monthly Income Standards

October 1, 2010 & October 1, 2011

Household Size Income Limits

1. \$ 1,045.00
2. \$ 1,357.00
3. \$ 1,668.00
4. \$ 1,991.00
5. \$ 2,329.00
6. \$ 2,666.00
7. \$ 2,978.00
8. \$ 3,290.00



For each additional member add \$ 312.00

Commodity Department serves 13 counties: Benzie, Grand Traverse, Lake Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Wexford.

Office hours are 8:00 A.M – 5:00 P.M

Lunch hour is 12:00 1:00

Yvonne Theodore, Laurie Jackson

1-888-723-8288 ask for Commodity Program

Office # are 231-398-6716 or 231-398-6715

Children's Instruction Manual

How many of you have heard the saying that *children don't come with an instruction manual*? This may be a true statement; however, there are many resources available to parents and expectant parents. You can find parenting books at your local library or bookstore, visit websites on child safety and development, subscribe to parenting magazines, or attend parenting classes like the Positive Indian Parenting classes offered by LRBOI Family Services Department. Another informative option is the Home and Child Passenger Safety Classes offered by Safe Kids of West Michigan. Safe Kids of West Michigan is a program offered through Mercy General Health Partners, in Muskegon, to serve individuals in Muskegon, Oceana, Lake, and Mason counties. The goal of Safe Kids of West Michigan is to preventing accidental childhood injury caused by motor vehicle crashes, fires, drowning, poisoning and falls. Classes are taught by a variety of experts in the community such as nurses, police and firefighters, safety advocates. The Home and Child Passenger Safety

Class covers a range of topics including:

- ✓ Child Passenger Safety
- ✓ Taking Care of Baby's Health
- ✓ Fire, Burns, and Scalding Prevention
- ✓ Poison Issues
- ✓ Choosing Safe Baby Equipment

Safe Kids of West Michigan also has a program that distributes and inspects child safety seats, called **BUCKEL-UP**. Expectant parents must complete the Home and Child Passenger Safety Class to be eligible to receive a discounted Infant car seat complete with inspection, instillation, and proper use instructions. After the class the car seat will be available for a co pay of \$20 and a referral from an agency such as LRBOI Family Services. Car seats/ booster seats are also available for individuals who already have children, the referral process is the same, but the class is not a requirement to receive the seat.

If you would like more information about this program or other parenting programs please contact the LRBOI Family Service Department @ (231)398-6726 for Manistee, or (231)398-6651 for Muskegon.

Submitted by
Melissa Sharlow
LRBOI Family Services

Fitness and Fun

Fitness and fun at the old community center in Manistee every Mon. and Thurs. evening after 5 p.m. family/children are welcome! We will be doing *Wii* activities and following exercise DVD's. If anyone has questions they can contact Holly Davis at 398-6610, Community Health Representative at 398-6629 or Peggy Ducey HR 398-6807.

2011 Corn Soup & Frybread Cook-off

Wenesh pii:

March 12, 2011

Doors open at 11:30 to prep

Competition starts at Noon

Bring Soup & Frybread Ready

Both will be judged seperately

Aanii piish:

Aki Maadiziwin

Community Center

2953 Shaw Be Quo-Ung

Manistee MI

\$3 to Eat/Vote

Contestant entry fee:

Donation

\$\$Cash Prizes\$\$

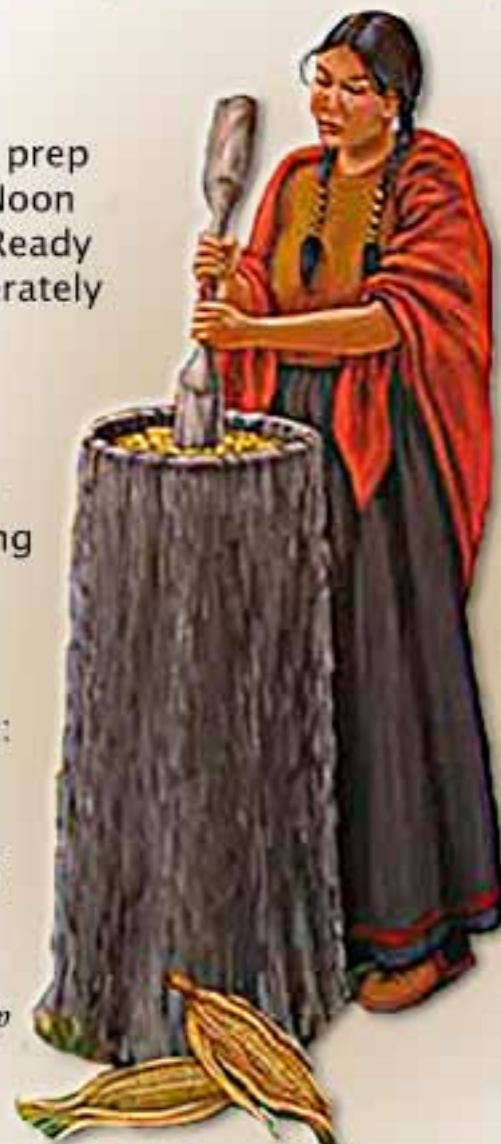


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Peacemaking-Probation Department

It is that time again, the Peacemaking/Probation Department is looking for tribal members to become Peacemakers. Every year we strive to get new people involved and to volunteer to become Peacemakers. Let's make good on that New Year resolution and be part of the solution. The Peacemaking/Probation Department need you.

If you are interested in becoming a Peacemaker, Please contact Pat Wilson or Austen Brauker, they can be contacted at these numbers (231)398-2239 and (231)398-2240. Or by email:

pwilson@lrboi.com and abrauker@lrboi.com

Odenaang Enjinoojimoying "A Place of Healing Many Hearts"

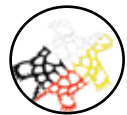


Diana Ledesma (Feb 10th)

Gerald King
Laurie Jackson
Dennis King
Missy Renner

Happy 68th Birthday to Thaddeuss James
"Jim" Theodore Jr. from his son Ted
Happy 46th Birthday to Leeann Willea from
her brother Ted.

Temporary jobs available!



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231.723.8288 or via e-mail to
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Wenesh (who) K-3rd Students

Aanil pilsh (where) Tribal Historic Preservation(294 River St)

Wenesh pli (when) 3:45 pm till 5:00 pm
on Tuesdays, February 8 thru March 22

Weekly Attendance Prizes

Snacks and Smiles provided

Pick up after school available

To Register please contact Julie Wolfe
Youth Prevention Counselor
1-888-723-8288 ext 6740

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Sponsored by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Department and Be-Da-Bin Behavioral Health

Temporary Staff Positions in
Tribal Natural Resources Aquatics Program

This summer the LRBOI Natural Resources Department will be hiring temporary staff to assist with fisheries and aquatic monitoring. Many exciting projects are in store including working with sturgeon, stream fish, bugs and water sampling. Many weekends and nights will be worked throughout the summer. If wading in fast water, seeing fish and picking bugs seems like a good summer job and you are enrolled in a BS degree program in biology (or related field) please submit an application to the Human Resources Department by March 1st.

Commerce - Workforce Development Announce 2011 Summer Adult and Youth Work
Experience/Employment Program

The LRBOI Department of Commerce Workforce Development Program is finalizing plans for a Summer Adult and Youth Work Experience/Employment Program designed to provide qualifying Tribal Citizens a work experience in an assortment of positions via its' government, enterprises and business entities. David Hawley, LRBOI Workforce Development Specialist, explains the program as an opportunity for the LRBOI Tribal Citizen to gain supervised experience in a work setting that can be included on their resume and in interviews. The Adult component of the program will be open to LRBOI Tribal Citizens at least 18 years of age. Applicants selected to participate in

the program will be required to complete up to 32 hours of Job Readiness Training during the course of the program. Selection for the program will be based on the strength of their interview and LRBOI Application for Employment which must be submitted in order to be considered for a position. Applicants must also submit a Workforce Development Application for Programs. There are a limited number of positions that will be available starting from Spring 2011 until Labor Day. The program is limited to 320 hours per participant and pays \$10.00 per hour. The Youth component of the program will be open to LRBOI Tribal Citizens 16-17 years of age. Applicants selected to participate in the program

will also be required to complete up to 32 hours of Job Readiness Training during the course of the program. Selection for the Youth program will be based on the submission of a work permit. State labor laws require the submission of a CA-7 work permit for minors 16 and 17 years of age. No one will be considered or selected for the program without a work permit. There are a limited number of positions that will be available starting from the end of the public school year until Labor Day. The program is limited to 320 hours per participant and pays \$7.65 per hour. Watch for details of the Summer Adult and Youth Work Experience/Employment Program in the March issue of *Currents* and in *Rapid River News*.



Sally Bell and Mary Velikan from the Tribal Emergency Response Team (TERT) addressed the Elder luncheon on the 17th at Aki Maadiziwin. They brought information concerning the upcoming Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training that is scheduled for the Community Center on February 12th and 13th.

The training will be to teach local residents from Aki and the Community about critical skills for first response if and when a disaster or incident occurs. There is training in First Aid, Search and Recovery and many other areas. In fact, the whole course takes approximately 20 hours!

This is the first time that the CERT training will take place on tribal lands in the U.S. There are other CERT groups elsewhere in Indian Country, but they have all been as part of a larger county or city effort. As Mary Velikan told the elders, the Tribal Emergency Response Team wanted to bring this training here specifically to develop a team at Aki Maadiziwin and the idea just snowballed to where the tribe is actually leading the county in development of the trained groups.

Watch for an article on the training in the next Currents.



MOWA Tour at LRCR



Eleven members of the Michigan Outdoor Writers Association (MOWA) visited Little River recently. In a visit organized by the Tribal Office of Public Affairs and the Ludington Daily News, the writers were treated to two hours of presentations on the history, culture and Natural Resources activities of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. It was followed by a tour of the Little River Casino Resort and lunch in the Willows.

Following introductions at the Fireplace, former Ogema and Tribal Historical Preservation Director Jonnie "Jay" Sam took the visitors for a tour of the Cultural Corridor and a lively discussion on the culture of the Anishinaabek people, our lands and our history. The visitors were fascinated by the beautiful displays and had numerous questions as many of them were not familiar with the Woodlands Indians.

Natural Resources Director Jimmie Mitchell also addressed the group and spoke about many of the activities of the tribe as well as its' historical dependence and interaction with the lands and waters of our native region. He and Jay both spoke of the crops, animals and fish that made up our historical lives along the rivers of Michigan. This part was fascinating to the

writers who regularly cover subjects dealing with Outdoor Activities in the state.

Judy Ball, the Conference Sales Manager of the Casino Resort then took the writers on a tour of the casino and spoke about upcoming events of interest such as the 2nd Annual 'Tight Lines for Troops' scheduled for this summer. This popular event began last year as a cooperative effort between many groups and individuals in the community and the tribe as a Charity Fishing Tournament for Michigan's Veterans.

After lunch in the Willows, the visitors were presented with a copy of the tribal history book, "Our People, Our Journey" by Jay Sam.

LDN writer, Brian Mulherin said that the entire group "was extremely impressed by the program and your facilities.

They also appreciated the red carpet treatment" provided by the tribal departments and personnel."



Currents

You can find this and many other issues at lrboi.com

Megwa Ezhiweback



Ziisabaakdoke-Giizis (Sugar Moon)
March 2011 vol.8 Issue 3



Government HQ Facelift



This last fall and continuing into 2011, the government headquarters at the bank building in Manistee is being spruced up. The Accounting Department on the third floor had their carpet replaced (it had really been looking bad!) and the walls on the 2nd and 3rd floors have been repaired and painted. A year ago, the iron fire escape, flooring and rails coming into the 2nd floor from the parking lot were stripped and painted and in some cases replaced to ensure safety for employees and visitors.

Most recently, Jake Shepard from the LRBOI Maintenance Department has been doing some excellent finishing work with the addition of wainscoting and chair rail in the common hallways. The stairwell (shown in the photos) is the first place to receive this finishing touch.

This seat of our government is looking much better and we can all be proud of it. Thanks to the Maintenance Department for their work.

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
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Manistee, Michigan 49660

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Or Current Resident

Meth Lab Response Training

Tribal Meth Lab Response Team created

In 2010, 756 Meth Labs and dumps sites were discovered in Michigan. With these there were 37 fires, 3 deaths, 32 injuries and 134 children put in imminent danger. These numbers were shared by MSP Detective Sergeant Mitchell Stevens during a *Clandestine Laboratory Basic Responder* training held last week at the Little River Casino Resort. The training was sponsored by the LRBOI Tribal Public Safety Department and coordinated by the Michigan State Police. **Training Edge, LLC** was contracted to conduct the training. It was attended by members of various Law Enforcement departments including Cadillac, Michigan State Police and LRBOI Tribal Public Safety. Tribal Public Safety Director Mike Martin talked about this particular training and the devastation of Methamphetamine use as well as the danger its production brings to our communities. Martin said that the training is designed to, "Mitigate the scene, gather evidence and ensure the safety of officers and civilians."

Once officers have been through this training, they know how to respond when a Meth Lab is discovered. The training was realistic with one day actually using the personal protective equipment needed to secure the site and practice handling the various chemicals used in the production of Methamphetamines. A major benefit to the tribe is that we now have our own Meth Lab Response Team comprised of 4 officers including tribal member Ryan Furman, Pat Gilles, Corey McGee and Sgt. Vance Bates. This tribal team is available for deployment throughout MSP regions 7 and 8 but will primarily be used in the vicinity of Manistee County. All attendees will be expected to join the MSP Meth Investigation Team in their regions.

The Tribal Public Safety Department regularly hosts training for other Law Enforcement agencies in the area. This cooperative training helps the departmental personnel to work together more effectively when issues such as discovery of Meth Labs come up in our region.

